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Image in rheumatology

Intraspinal calcinosis in systemic sclerosis

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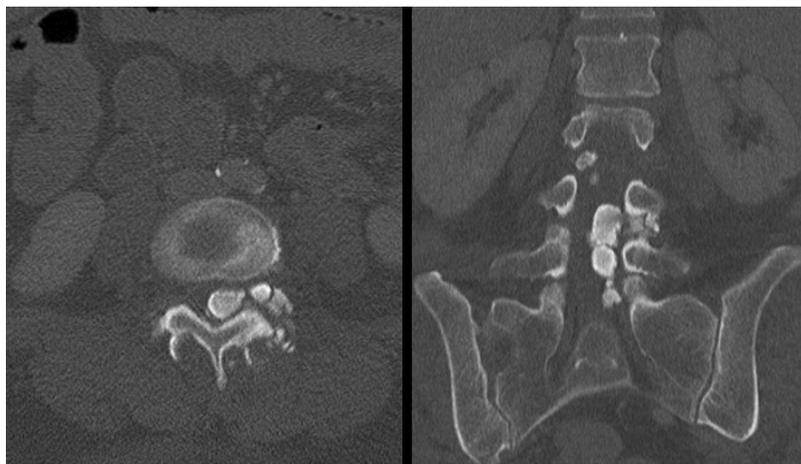


Fig. 1.

Axial and coronal computed tomographic images in a bone window setting show massive intraspinal calcifications with a pre-deliction on the left side, calcification of the left L4/5 neuroforamen and also paraspinous calcifications. There is spinal stenosis as well as nerve root compression (Fig. 1). The patient, a 52-year woman with known systemic sclerosis, reported about worsening left sided low back pain. Soft tissue calcinosis is a common occurrence in systemic sclerosis affecting up to 27% of patients [1], but only a few cases of intraspinal calcifications have been published [2]. Symptomatic treatment with NSAID medication and CT-guided

infiltrations lead to a marked clinical improvement. In refractory cases surgical resection of the calcifications is usually advised [2].

References

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- [2] Liberato ACP, Amaral LLFD, Marussi VHR. Tumoral calcinosis in the lumbar spine secondary to systemic sclerosis: a rare cause of radiculopathy in an adult with advanced disease. *BJR Case Rep* 2016;28 [20150435].

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